INSIST ON
Bartlett-Bacon bills being passed. Insist on knowing where your Representatives in Congress stand. You have a right to know.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter, September 10, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the act of August 24, 1912.

HELP THE MINERS.
Local unions are urged to give prompt financial aid to the striking copper miners of Calumet.

VOL. 3. NO. 51 — WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 1914. — WHOLE NO. 155

LET PEOPLE 'FLOAT AROUND'

United States Marine Official Makes Sensational Statement.

SAYS ORIENTALS EXCEL WHITES

Workers Use Ship Owners' Testimony to Urge Passage of the La Follette Seamen's Bill.

Washington, March 21.—Hearings on the La Follette seamen's bill, before the Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries of the House of Representatives, are now closed. The shipowners testified that rafts were better than boats as life-saving appliances, and that boats for all was unreasonable and unnecessary. Mr. Uhler, supervisory inspector general of the Steamboat Inspection Service, testified that in his opinion, and in the opinion of the board of inspectors, it was sufficient for safety when a vessel, carrying 3,890 passengers on Lake Michigan, had boats for ninety-five of them, rafts for 285 of them and life preservers for the other 3,466, if the vessel didn't go any more than five miles from shore. "If the vessel," said Mr. Uhler, "takes fire, the passengers will put on the life preservers, jump overboard with their children in their arms and float around until they are picked up, which might be hours." He further testified that less than one square yard of space on the vessel's deck was sufficient not only for comfort, but for safety on an excursion vessel either on the lakes or on the bays and sounds of the United States. Further testimony, given by the shipowners and Mr. Uhler, was that the firemen, coal passers, stewards and waiters were better men for handling lifeboats than sailors; that sailors need no skill or experience, and that Orientals are better than whites. Mr. Gottheil, of New York; Mr. Dollar, of San Francisco, and others testified that tramp steamers are largely manned by Orientals, whose wages are about one-fifth of that which would have to be paid to American seamen, and that foreign shipowners would either refuse to send their vessels to the United States or they would increase the freight rates to correspond with the additional cost that necessarily would come from the passage of the La Follette Seamen's bill.

In summing up the shipowners' testimony, Secretary Olander, of the Lake Seamen's union, said, in reference to the question of safety, that the shipowners and Mr. Uhler had correctly described existing conditions, except where they had compared the ability of sailors and others in handling lifeboats and their statement that Orientals are better seamen than whites. The unionist said present conditions which the shipowners defended, were responsible for the large number of shipwrecks and great losses of passengers. He further insisted that on boats now, there were not enough men even of the kind that the shipowners were furnishing, under supervision of the Federal Inspection Department. President Furuseth, of the International Seamen's union, accepted as truth the testimony of Messrs. Gottheil and Dollar, and said that if the foreign shipowners refused to send their vessels to this country, then American citizens could build up an American merchant marine upon their own terms, because they would then have no competition; and that, on the other hand, if the foreigner chose to come and increase the charges, as predicted, then the American merchant marine could be built up because the American shipowners would be on an absolute equality in the cost of operation with their foreign competitors.

The La Follette Seamen's bill has passed the senate, and the report of the House Committee will be a factor in deciding the bill's fate when it comes before the House of Representatives. The Seamen are using the testimony of their opponents as the best of reasons why the bill should pass, and have issued a circular in which they say: "If you don't agree with the shipowners' statement that it is safe to jump overboard with your child in your arms, waiting to be picked up by a passing vessel, write to your congressman on behalf of this bill, now pending in the House of Representatives."

GERMAN STRIKEBREAKERS.

Berlin, March 21.—In the last circular issued by Secretary Carl Legien, of the International Federation of Trades Unions, the following would indicate that strikebreaking has reached a scientific point in Germany: "The favorite tactic of the German employers to oppose the workers' movements is the importation of foreign workers. In order that these workers may be kept from the organizations, and used as strikebreakers, every difficulty is placed in their way by the state. They are placed under a strict police control. They are obliged to take out a new card every year, and are liable to deportation upon differences arising between them and their employers. The use of a foreign language at public meetings is forbidden, thus rendering propaganda work very difficult. Special papers are published for the Polish and Italian workers, and those members speaking other languages are supplied with papers from their home country."

LABOR EDITORS TO MEET.

St. Louis, Mo., March 21.—A convention of the International Labor Press Association of America will be held in this city April 14 and 15, when questions affecting the editors, owners and managers of bona fide labor newspapers of America will be discussed. Officers in charge invite all labor newspapers to join the organization and be in attendance at the coming convention.

URGED TO LEAVE TURKEY.

Budapest, March 21.—It is reported that attempts are being made by a number of immigration agents to induce workers and their families to leave Turkey, because of a shortage of labor as a result of the war.

MORE $75 LIVES.

New York, March 21.—Twenty-three additional suits for damages as a result of the Triangle fire, in which 148 employes lost their lives, have been settled for $75 each. Most of the suits were for more than $10,000 damages, and were filed shortly after the fire occurred, three years ago. The terms of the present suits were filed in the Supreme court, and are similar to compromises last January, when Surrogate Fowler signed an order permitting the administrators of the estates of nine victims to settle claims against the Triangle company for $75 apiece. It is claimed that a company in which the Triangle concern was insured is fighting these cases.

WILL HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS

Washington, March 21.—How may relations existing between American employers and employes be made more harmonious without sacrificing the rights or thwarting the legitimate ambitions of either? The United States Commission on Industrial Relations is in the field to find an answer, and any person who has a constructive suggestion will be given an opportunity to offer it at the public hearings now being planned to include the following cities: New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Paterson, Scranton, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Wheeling, Charlotte, Greenville, Atlanta, Birmingham, Nashville, Memphis, Louisville, New Orleans, Detroit, Indianapolis, Cleveland, Chicago, Houghton, Milwaukee, Madison, St. Louis, Kansas City, St. Paul, Denver, Trinidad, Dallas or Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle, Butte and Lead. Any one who can tell of successful efforts to maintain harmonious and satisfactory relations through trade agreements or otherwise are invited by the Commission to communicate with it at Washington and to send in the names of witnesses who are competent to testify regarding such efforts. Other fields of inquiry will be entered. Those include the problems of unskilled labor, such as unemployment, irregularity, and revolutionary labor organizations; the relation of the courts to labor disputes, vocational education and the activities of public agencies in enacting and enforcing laws for the regulation of industrial relations. One important subject to be considered is scientific management and the problem of how to apply it on a basis that is fair both to employers and employes. Public hearings will begin April 6 and all information as to witnesses and matters that should be considered in particular cities should be sent to the commission promptly.

LUMBER MILLS AND UNIONS.

San Francisco, March 21.—The Star of this city comments as follows on the attempt of Everett, Wash., lumber mill magnates to destroy the Timber Workers' Union: "The union of lumber mill owners at Everett, Wash., has declared war on the union of lumber mill employes. Seven of the largest lumber mills in Everett, 'operating under an agreement,' shut down last week and reopened this week 'under new conditions affecting their employes'—the new conditions being that all union officers, organizers, walking delegates and men wearing union buttons are barred from the premises of the mills. The 'Mill Owners' Union' announces that it does not discriminate against any employe because he belongs to a union, but it reserves the 'right' to refuse to employ any worker who has taken an active part in organizing a union. These men are merely making trouble for themselves and for the country. They are free to combine against the workingmen's unions, but deny the right of workingmen to combine in unions for their own protection. To be consistent, they should use a powder house as a smoking room."

MEDIATION AVERTS STRIKE.

New York, March 21.—A general strike of the Children's Dressmakers' union, involving about 15,000 workers, has been averted as the result of conferences between trade union representatives and the association of interested employers. The workers charged that the employers had violated their agreement. The latter agreed to comply with the terms of the protocol, and also agreed to cooperate with the union in bringing about protocol conditions in the non-association shops, which number about one-third of the total in this city. It is said the union will force strikes in those establishments that refuse to place themselves on the same competitive basis, as regards labor cost and working conditions. Both parties to the conference agreed that they would confer with an expert on industrial relations and discuss questions that may arise in the future. Matters upon which they fail to agree are to be referred to the Board of Arbitration appointed under the protocol.

ANTI-COUPON LAW DISCUSSED.

Washington, March 21.—The proposal of Representative Underwood to impose a prohibitive tax on premium coupons given away with tobacco and cigarettes has been warmly discussed before the House Ways and Means Committee by representatives of the United Cigar Stores Company, independent tobacco manufacturers and trade union officials. The "independents" urge the legislation on the ground that the coupons are destroying their business without benefiting the consumer. The United company declared their coupon system "stimulates" the tobacco business and increases the government's revenue.

BACK PAY AWARDED.

Boston, March 21.—Conductors, motormen, shop hands and other employes of the local street car company have been awarded their back pay, under the order of the arbitration board, which recently raised wages, to take effect May 1 of last year. The company states that $243,510 was distributed to 10,140 persons, some of whom had left the company's employ, but who would be given their wages on demand. The amounts range from 86 cents to $154. To pay the expenses of the arbitration proceedings, each man was assessed a percentage of his back pay.

WILL AGAIN TRY TO AGREE.

Chicago, March 21.—Representatives of the United Mine Workers and the coal operators in the bituminous fields of Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois are in session in this city, endeavoring to adjust their wage scale differences. A previous conference at Philadelphia brought no results. The miners are asking for increases and that all coal shall be paid for on a mine-run basis.

RECORD DAMAGES ASSESSED.

Washington, March 21.—The United States Supreme Court made a record for assessing damages against violators of the alien contract labor law when it upheld a fine of $45,000 against the Grant Brothers Construction Company, a California concern, whose representatives brought forty-five Mexicans into this country to work on railroad construction in Arizona.

ORGANIZING MILL MEN.

Bakersfield, Cal., March 21.—The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is conducting an organizing campaign among the mill men of this section. These workers are organized into a separate local and then affiliated to the Brotherhood.

LOOMFIXERS ORGANIZE.

Holyoke, Mass., March 21.—A union of loomfixers has been organized in this city. The new local is affiliated to the United Textile Workers of America.

OPPOSE LABOR INJUNCTIONS

Trenton, N. J., March 21.—By a vote of 52 to 2 the State assembly indorsed the injunction limitation bill introduced by Assemblyman Quinn. The bill was indorsed by New Jersey trade unionists and provides that no restraining order or injunction shall be granted in any case between an employer and employe relating to labor disputes or strikes unless necessary to prevent irreparable injury to property rights of the person making the application, and for which there is no adequate remedy at law. The author of the bill pointed out to his colleagues that the leading New Jersey political parties went before the people at the last election on injunction limitation platforms, and that the position of these organizations fairly indicated the views of New Jersey's citizenship on the question of human rights versus property rights. Opponents of the bill are now leveling their heaviest guns on the senate and its judiciary committee, and to offset this force, the trade unionists asked President Gompers to appear before the senate committee. The A. F. of L. executive's address before that body was a masterful presentation of labor's reasons why courts should not use the injunction writ in industrial disputes where remedies provided by law obtain.

NEW PARCEL POST RULES.

Washington, March 21.—Under a new rule by Postmaster General Burleson, butter, eggs, fruits, berries, vegetables, dressed poultry and other articles in parcels weighing over twenty pounds and up to fifty pounds for shipment within the first and second zones—approximately 150 miles—can now be packed in boxes and crates similar to those generally used when shipping by express. It is intended to handle these boxes outside of mail bags. The new rule will prove a boon to farmers and truckers in getting their products to the city at a smaller expense.

Another important departure has been made by an order which will permit the attaching of a letter to a parcel post package when both bear their respective rates of postage and are addressed to the same individual. The letter or communication must not be enclosed in the package, but it must be tied or otherwise securely fastened to the outside in such manner as to prevent its separation from the package. The new order is expected to enlarge the parcel post service. The sending of a communication with a parcel post package heretofore has not been permissable.

WIDE-AWAKE UNIONISTS.

Kansas City, Mo., March 21.—Extensive plans have been perfected by trade unionists in this city to make their "labor forward" movement a success. The committee of seven appointed by the central body first called a meeting of unionists, when the campaign was launched, after interesting every Kansas City organized worker. Financial support will come from voluntary subscriptions of locals and a canvassing force of at least 1,000 men will spread the gospel of trade unionism in the homes of every unorganized wageworker. A captain will be put in charge of the work in each ward and lieutenants in every precinct. Literature in an unstinted amount will be distributed and meetings will be held in every voting precinct in the city. Many international officers and organizers will assist in the work, which has already borne fruit in the case of Retail Clerks, who are perfecting a local of their own.

LOW WAGES FOR TEACHERS.

Springfield, Ill., March 21.—Statistics just issued by state officials prove the contention of Illinois public school teachers that their pay is low. The average salary of the 5,609 men teachers in the state is $772.07 a year, according to the figures prepared by the state superintendent, and the average salary of the 24,959 women teachers is $643.70. There are 74 men and 332 women teachers receiving under $200 a year; 697 men and 2,017 women under $300; 1,070 men and 4,289 women under $400, and 819 men and 5,587 women under $500 a year. In spite of the low salaries paid, the teachers are loyal to the profession, and that the charge that teaching is made a temporary occupation until something better is found is not always true is proved by the fact that 2,289 teachers have been in the profession for twenty years.

URGE SUNDAY CLOSING.

Los Angeles, March 21.—California barbers are enthusiastic in their efforts to initiate a Sunday-closing law for barber shops in this State. The movement has been indorsed by the American Federation of Labor and the California trade union movement. Names are now being secured, and it is predicted that nearly 100,000 voters will declare that this proposal should be submitted to the voters at the next election. While the barbers are urging this law they also report better working conditions are being secured with additional shops in the trade union column.

WANT PRACTICAL TEACHERS.

St. Paul, March 21.—The Painters' union of this city does not favor the proposal of the City Charter Commission to limit the appointment of instructors in the manual training department of the public schools to graduates of colleges and universities. The Painters believe instances will arise where men acquainted with the practical side of industry will be necessary, and that education in the crafts does not consist wholly of a knowledge of affairs technical.

TO AID STRIKING GIRLS.

New York, March 21.—President Frank McNulty, of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, has been conferring with the officers of the General Electric company on the strike of 500 girls in the company's plant at Toledo, Ohio. The strike was caused by continued wage reductions. The girls are organized and affiliated to the Brotherhood, whose general executive board has taken the matter in hand.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES.

Asheville, N. C., March 21.—The Typographical union has reached a satisfactory agreement with the employing printers of this city. The contract is signed for three years and covers wage increases and better working conditions. The employers conceded that the increased living cost called for wage adjustments.

JOHN MITCHELL APPOINTED.

Albany, N. Y., March 21.—The state senate has confirmed Gov. Glynn's four nominees for membership on the Workmen's Compensation Commission, provided for by a law recently passed. One of the appointees is John Mitchell, ex-vice president of the American Federation of Labor.

LESS IMMIGRANTS.

Washington, March 21.—Immigration figures for the month of January, 1914, just issued by the Department of Labor, shows a decrease in the number of immigrants over the previous two months. The November admissions were 104,671, and in December, 95,387. The January total is 44,708. Of this number 14,727 are classed as "laborers" and "farm laborers." The number in the latter list is 7,813. This vast army of unskilled workers remain in large industrial centers. Of the total number admitted, only 50 professed a knowledge of gardening, and but 598 said they were farmers. The number of skilled workers admitted remains at the usual insignificant figure. A total of 455 craftsmen are divided among the following 15 trades: Plasterers, brewers, cabinetmakers, engineers, iron and steel workers, jewelers, pattern makers, wheelwrights, upholsterers, tobacco workers, tinners, stonecutters, tanners, harnessmakers, and plumbers. The proportion of those denied admission for various reasons to those admitted was larger in January than in December or November. In January the percentage was 5.2; in December, 2.8, and in November, 2.12.

SAFETY BUREAU LAW PASSED.

Washington, March 21.—By a unanimous vote, the House of Representatives passed the bill creating a Bureau of Labor Safety in the Department of Labor. Provision is made for the establishment of a museum of labor-safety devices, so that opportunity for the study of modern methods of preventing industrial disasters may be at hand at all times. "Safety in industry" will be the thought behind the new department, which will create a strong national sentiment for the protection of life and limb in shops, mills, and mines. It is proposed to make general and special investigations of labor safety plans and devices, to inquire into all phases of vocational diseases, and to make public the result of these investigations. Congressman Bremner, who died recently in a Baltimore hospital, fathered the bill. He spent the last hours of his life urging his congressional colleagues to vote for the measure.

PRESSMEN'S ELECTION RESULTS.

Rogersville, Tenn., March 21.—Election returns from the membership of the International Printing Pressmen and Assistants' Union of North America shows that George L. Berry has been re-elected president. Upon the entering of his coming term of office President Berry will be beginning the ninth year of his service as the chief executive officer of this organization. John W. Brophy, of Milwaukee, was elected first vice president; William H. McHugh, of Kansas City, second vice president, and Daniel Pfister, of St. Louis, third vice president; George C. Orr, of Chicago, secretary-treasurer; William Gall, of Toronto, home trustee; Frank Dermody, William Gary, and P. S. Grady, school trustees.

AN INTERESTING DECISION.

St. Paul, Minn., March 21.—The Supreme Court of this state decided in the case of Kuchmicheal vs. Western Union Telegraph Company that where a messenger was told there were no messages to deliver, but that he could stay at the phone, and later, in the delivery of a message, on a bicycle, he injured a pedestrian, the company was liable. The court held that the messenger was in the service of the company at the time of the accident and that the company was liable for the acts of its servant. In answer to the company's claim that the bicycle was the personal property of the messenger, the court held that while he was not ordered to buy it or use it, he did use it in the business of the company with its knowledge and consent.

DISCUSS WAGE SCALES.

Montreal, March 21.—Representatives of building trades unions are conferring with their employers on the question of wages for the coming season. The rates submitted by the workers provide: Structural iron workers, 35 to 45 cents an hour; tilers, 45 to 55; plumbers, 40 to 42½; steamfitters, 35 to 42½; plumbers' helpers, 15 to 25; marble cutters, 40 to 45; marble setters, 40 to 45; painters, 35 to 40; tinsmiths and roofers, 30 to 40; cement finishers (foremen), 40 to 45. The portable engineers ask for a reduction in the work day from ten to nine hours.

MINERS TO HAVE LEGAL AID.

Wilkes-Barre, Pa., March 21.—United Mine Workers in the three anthracite districts will establish a permanent legal bureau for their members. Bills will be prepared for introduction in the legislature, damage suits will be prosecuted and the interests of Miners will be protected wherever possible, either as individuals or as an organization. It is believed this feature will be an inducement in keeping members in good standing, as only those can expect aid from the union's legal department.

EXPRESS COMPANY DISSOLVES.

New York, March 21.—"The parcel post has done a great deal to make the express business dwindle," said General Manager Martin in discussing the action of the United States Express company's directors in voting to dissolve the company. Other officials blame the Interstate Commerce Commission because of the establishment of reduced rates. The company has been in continuous business for over sixty years. The equipment and contracts of the company will be disposed of.

PAINTERS WIN IN LOCKOUT.

Colorado Springs, March 21.—The Painters have won in the controversy with their employers, and the latter's lockout has been declared at an end. The agreement calls for a union shop, an eight-hour day, time and one-half for overtime and holidays, and a grievance committee to settle disputes.

BUTCHERS ORGANIZE.

East St. Louis, Ill., March 21.—A local affiliated to the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen has been organized in this city with a large membership.

LITERACY TEST IS FAVORED

Washington, March 21.—By the unanimous vote of those present, the Senate Immigration Committee decided to report the Burnett immigration bill with the literacy test unchanged. The bill recently passed the House of Representatives by a two-thirds vote. The literacy test provides that immigrants must read at least forty words in either English or some other language, dialect or tongue. The exemptions include those fleeing from religious, racial, or political persecution, and also the mother, wife, or grandmother or father and grandfather over fifty-five years of age. The bill now goes to the Senate, with the prestige of an overwhelming vote by the House and the unanimous approval by the Senate committee, whose chairman, Senator Smith, of South Carolina, said: "I consider this bill the most effective measure that has been presented to Congress in years for the purpose of restricting undesirable immigration. It is fair alike to foreign governments and to our own people." Strong pressure is being exerted to have the Senate reject the literacy clause in this bill, and trade unionists are urged to notify their Senators of their views on this question.

LITTLE BITS FROM 'FRISCO.

San Francisco, March 21.—The Newspapers Solicitors' Union claims to be the first local in this city to pay the one cent assessment levied by the American Federation of Labor for the purpose of organizing women wage workers. The new wage scale of the waiters' union calls for a wage increase from $12 to $15 a week in Class B restaurants. The Board of Public Works has ordered building inspectors to rigidly enforce the new ordinance which provides that planking must be provided for each floor during the construction of steel frame buildings to protect the workmen from injury. Some of the largest restaurant owners in the city are complying with the request of Cooks Helpers' Union for a reduction of hours. For years the members of this union have worked twelve hours a day, six days a week for a weekly wage ranging from $10 to $12. The union asks for a 10½ hour work day and no reduction in pay. Union officials believe the shorter work day will be enforced without resorting to strikes.

SIXTEEN HOURS ENOUGH.

Boise, Idaho, March 21.—"Tying up on a siding for any purpose, whether to wait orders or for the passing of other trains, or for any other purpose connected with the transportation of freight or passengers, is as much a part of the general movement of trains as the actual running thereof," says the United States Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco in upholding a fine levied against the Great Northern Railroad by the Federal District Court of Idaho. The case was that of a fireman forced to work more than sixteen hours in one day, and who was then compelled to work as a watchman while his train stood on a siding. Both courts held that sixteen hours' work means sixteen hours work, and if a fireman is forced to do other work after the limit provided by law is reached, this constitutes an offense, for every activity of employes is essential in the operation of the road.

WIRE MEN'S GOOD CONTRACT.

Boston, March 21.—Members of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, employed by the Boston Elevated Railway company, will receive a wage increase of 3 cents an hour, to date back to May 1, of last year. This rate continued until last Saturday, after which the men will be granted an additional 1 cent an hour increase, making the total increase over the old rates 4 cents an hour, to remain in effect until September 14, of next year. Overtime will be paid for at the rate of time and one-half and the management of the company has taken under consideration a proposition to grant the men one day off in thirty without loss of pay. It is estimated that each man will receive about $72 in back pay. This is the first agreement the company has entered into with the Order of Railway Telegraphers.

FLORIDA MUSICIANS WIN.

Jacksonville, March 21.—The musicians' union has won its contention with the management of the Duval theater of this city, which was caused by a dismissal of members of the orchestra, which the musicians charge was a contract violation. The Stage Employes ceased work when nonunion musicians were employed.

PAINTERS WANT PROTECTION.

Boston, March 21.—Painters in this state are being supported by fellow trade unionists in an effort to secure the passage of a law that will require inspection of ropes, ladders, staging, swings and other apparatus used in the painters' business. These workers show that a surprising number of fatalities occur every year through the use of old and weather-beaten appliances.

TRUNK WORKERS UNITE.

St. Louis, Mo., March 21.—Trunk and bag workers in this city are being organized and chartered by the International Union of Travelers' Goods and Leather Novelty Workers. The strike in this city, several years ago, destroyed unity among these workers. Of late, however, the sentiment for trade unionism has developed to a point where organization is again assured.

CARPENTERS' WAGES GO UP.

Worcester, Mass., March 21.—The Carpenters unions of Ware and Palmer, near here, have made good gains as a result of organization conducted by the Brotherhood's officers. The Palmer local has secured a 41-cent an hour wage rate and the 44-hour week. Carpenters at Ware have reduced hours from 54 to 48 a week and secured a wage increase from $2.50 to $3 a day.

FORM A STATE BRANCH.

Columbus, Ohio, March 21.—Sheet Metal Workers in this state have formed a district council. Its objects are to promote harmony between the locals and advance their interests. Meetings will be held twice a year, on the second Saturday of March and September.

WAGE RAISE FOR MILL MEN.

Cleveland, Ohio, March 21.—The Carpenters' District Council of this city has signed an agreement for one year for the mill workers, which provides for a wage increase of 2 1-2 cents an hour and a Saturday half holiday.

ALASKA RAILWAY A FACT.

Washington, March 21.—President Wilson has signed the Alaska railway bill, which provides for the construction by the government of a line in that country that will connect the coal fields with the Pacific ocean.

SPECIAL POLICE RESENTED

Indianapolis, Ind., March 21.—Trade unionists in this city are angered over the policy of the street car company since the recent award of the State Public Service Commission, which adjusted differences that caused the strike of last year. Company employes who belong to the union say they are dismissed on the flimsiest pretext. Committees from the Central Labor union are protesting to city officials against giving special police powers to employes of the company. It is shown that the law provides that special policemen must live in the city at least six months before they are commissioned. This law is being disregarded. There are about 150 of these special policemen employed by the company, and the feeling between them and the unionists is tense. Many of the applications for these commissions bear this inscription: "O. K., J. J. M." J. J. Mahoney is superintendent of the company. President Mahon, of the Amalgamated Association of Street Car Men, has been in the city advising with his fellows. The city is filled with strikebreakers and gunmen whom the unionists claim are being used by the company to destroy their organization. One of these sluggers, David Masterson, who was prominent in the strike, was arrested last week at the request of Terre Haute authorities. He is charged with attempting to kill Special Judge Blankenbaker, who presided over the election fraud case in that city.

ACT REDUCES CRIPPLES.

Canal Dover, Ohio, March 21.—Predicting the day when factory cripples and industrial tragedies will be reduced to a minimum, Gov. Cox, in an address in this city, explained how the new compensation act is stopping waste in human life. The speaker said a surprising number of manufacturing concerns have been driven out of business by damage suits, which have resulted in no compensation to the workman who procured the verdict because the companies have not been worth very much when they ceased to be "going concerns." The state executive also said: "It is quite generally understood that the premium assessed against the manufacturer is based entirely upon the number of accidents in the industry as classified. Reductions of premiums have already been made to those employers who have, by the installation of safety devices and a more careful superintendence of their work, shown a marked decrease in the number of accidents." The state attorney general has ruled that seamen on lake and river passenger boats and freighters, if hired by Ohio companies, come under the provisions of the compensation act, and must be awarded benefits from the state fund in case of accident.

STEAM FITTERS IN LINE.

New York, March 21.—Steam fitters of this city have voted to amalgamate with the United Association of Plumbers and Steam Fitters and a committee has been appointed to complete arrangements. This marks another advance in the movement of the A. F. of L. for one union in the pipe fitting industry, which the Atlanta convention, in 1911, declared was necessary to further the interests of workers in this calling. At the following convention in Rochester further action was taken, and since that time the A. F. of L. officials have been aiding the United Association in carrying out the mandates of the trade union movement. Patience and time are vindicating the correctness of this decision, and the action of steam fitters in this city will go a long ways toward making "one union in the pipe industry" a fact.

NEW LAW A SUCCESS.

Carson City, Nev., March 21.—The dire predictions regarding the educational test for miners in this state, which took effect the first of the year, have not been fulfilled. This law provides that all underground workers and surface mine workers must be able to speak the English language intelligently, and was urged by the state mine inspector and the miners' unions. The act makes it impossible to employ any one "who cannot clearly speak and readily understand the English language, or who cannot readily read and understand any sign, notice or list of rules or directions printed in the English language in regard to rules of safety in said underground mine, or in the handling of explosives."

MONTREAL WORKERS COMPLAIN.

Montreal, March 21.—Unionists are filing complaints to the authorities because of their inactivity in enforcing the workmen's "fair wage" clause, which, it is said, is overlooked in many cases when the government lets contracts. In a letter on this subject, the Board of Business Agents says: "Representatives of the department call upon us and try to make us believe that they are dealing with these grievances, but when they leave and nothing is done to adjust our grievances, we have pointed out to them that the growing opinion that the department is playing a game of bluff is firmly implanted among our members."

UNITE ON WATER FRONT.

Baltimore, March 21.—The organizing campaign being conducted in this city by the International Longshoremen's Association is bringing results, and the new locals and strengthened old ones have now formed a council that comprises waterfront workers. Wages and working conditions will be handled through the new venture, thereby making the scale uniform. Officials state that the colored workers are as enthusiastic to organize as the white workers.

BRIDGE MACHINISTS OUT.

Toledo, Ohio, March 21.—Because the company violated a verbal agreement, made last summer, and has reinstated the ten-hour day, machinists employed by the Toledo Bridge and Crane company are on strike. The manager says the order is a result of a vote taken by the men on this question, but he fails to recognize this alleged decision with the strike.

STATE BRANCH GROWS.

Springfield, Ill., March 21.—In a circular letter to unions on the increased growth of the Illinois State Federation of Labor, Secretary-Treasurer Morris says prospects are bright for a considerable number of other locals affiliating in the near future, and that "there seems to be a wave of understanding sweeping all over the state."

BREWERS RAISE WAGES.

Lancaster, Pa., March 21.—Brewery Workers local No. 208 has signed a new agreement with the breweries under its jurisdiction. An increase in wages and a decrease in working hours is provided. On legal holidays a vacation with pay is granted. The differences were adjusted without trouble, save in one instance, where a strike of a few hours was necessary to make the new rates uniform.

PROBERS RETURN TO CAPITAL

Drastic Legislation on Mine Strikes Is Hinted.

COMPANIES MAKE ADMISSIONS

One Gunman Said He Was Ordered to "Stir Up Trouble" in Copper Country.

Washington, March 21.—Subcommittees of the House mines and mining committee have returned from the Colorado and Michigan strike zones. Congressman Taylor, of the Michigan subcommittee, is quoted as declaring that the action of the copper owners in refusing to recognize the miners' union is "un-American." It is claimed that this committee will take action on the practice of shipping armed men into a state under the orders of employers. An expert will be sent to Boston to go over the books of the Calumet-Hecla company, after which the companies and the strikers will be allowed fifteen days in which to file briefs. Congressman Foster, a member of the Colorado subcommittee, is quoted as saying that conditions in that state are "deplorable and shocking." He intimated that drastic legislation would be recommended as a result of their findings. "We have actual admission," he said, "from the mine companies that they issued company checks to pay their men instead of postal orders as required by law, while charging the regular federal rates for their checks. There have been many killings. We have had evidence of men imprisoned and intimidated in the tented cities over which militiamen in the pay of the mine companies stand guard, with the result that these men had to flee over the hills to escape." Congressman Keating, of Colorado, in a statement, suggested that all mine strikes and their attendant evils would be eliminated if the federal government would establish a standard of mining operations and exclude from interstate commerce all mine products not produced under this standard.

Chicago, March 21.—On their return from the copper country to Washington, the Congressional investigating committee listened to testimony on the Michigan strike in this city. The most interesting was that furnished by Henry Batter, who acknowledged he was employed by the Ascher Detective agency, of New York, to go into the copper country and "stir up trouble." Batter said: "We were given to understand that we were to go among the strikers wherever they congregated and encourage them to commit acts of violence, so as to give the militia and deputies cause for dispersing them."

"Do you mean to tell this committee that so-called gunmen, or detectives, or sluggers, are hired to go into communities where there are strikes for the sole purpose of beating up men and starting trouble?" asked Congressman Taylor.

"I've been in that business for seven years," answered Batter.

FAVORS STATE CONSTABULARY.

Trenton, N. J., March 21.—Ex-Gov. Pennypacker, of Pennsylvania, has been called upon to assist in the campaign for a New Jersey state constabulary, and in an address before the State Senate Committee on Appropriations he told of the many benefits that would result in the establishment of this institution, so heartily condemned by Pennsylvania trade unionists. The organized workers of this state are opposing the proposed law and charge that it is being urged by manufacturers in the vicinity of Perth Amboy because of a strike in that section some time ago. They deny the claims made by Mr. Pennypacker and cite the fact that the legislature in his state recently refused to enlarge the state police. The New Jersey act provides for two companies of fifty-two men each, organized along military lines. In opposing the bill, Assemblyman Godfrey said the people of all the municipalities are being given proper protection by their individual police systems, and that the proposed $200,000 to establish the constabulary could be better used for the protection and development of the natural resources of the state, "thus reducing the cost of living."

DIDN'T CONSULT CARPENTERS.

Winnipeg, March 21.—Carpenters in this city are objecting to the manner in which their wage schedule is being arranged by the "fair wage" authorities, who seem to have forgotten that the workers themselves should be consulted. The municipal board of control has accepted the new maximum rates, which are divided into three grades as follows: Fifty cents an hour for finish carpenters; forty-five cents for ordinary carpenters, and thirty-five cents for form carpenters. The previous rate for carpenters was fifty-five cents an hour. These workers say the new rates were drawn up by the employers and the "fair wage" officer, without consulting them.

TELL WORKERS THEIR RIGHTS.

Sacramento, Cal., March 21.—The State Industrial Accident Commission is urging California trade unionists to write at any time on questions connected with the new compensation act. The commission is making special efforts to acquaint workers with their rights, and believe this can be accomplished by educating the organized workers, who will act as missionaries in the shops and factories of the state.

UNION WAGES AT REGINA.

Regina, Sask., March 21.—The city council has complied with the request of the Trades and Labor Council to insert a union wage clause in all contracts let by the city. It is further ordered that future contracts must stipulate that contractors doing city work shall be compelled to insure their employes against injury and death.

WHAT IS A THREAT?

London, Eng., March 21.—The difference between a warning and a threat was argued before the Court of Appeal, which sustained members of a trade union in a case for damages [illegible] they refused to work [illegible] bers of a [illegible]. The court held that there was no threat, no violence, or suggestion of violence. Neither was there anything illegal, but that the refusal to work with the persons disagreeable to the defendants was merely a warning, without anger, violence, rudeness, or ill manners; only a courteous intimation to the employer that he must act on the resolution that had been passed. The plea for damages was dismissed and the costs assessed against the plaintiffs.